

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/002367

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F2/46 A61B17/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61F A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 688 281 A (CRIPE PHIL ET AL) 18 November 1997 (1997-11-18) column 12, line 38 -column 13, line 15 figures 7A,7B	1-8,10, 11,13,17
X	FR 2 796 267 A (PROTHEOS IND) 19 January 2001 (2001-01-19) page 3, line 29 -page 5, line 23 figures	1-3,5, 7-14,18, 19
X	EP 0 619 097 A (SULZER MEDIZINALTECHNIK AG) 12 October 1994 (1994-10-12) column 3, line 22 -column 7, line 8 figures 1-3	1-3,5-7, 11,13, 14,17

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

• Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 August 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/09/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Storer, J

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 888 211 A (SANDERS ANTHONY P) 30 March 1999 (1999-03-30) column 3, line 19 - line 64 figures 1-3	1-3, 5, 6, 13, 16, 18
A		15
X	US 6 159 216 A (KANA RICHARD J ET AL) 12 December 2000 (2000-12-12) column 3, line 5 - line 13 figure 1	1-3, 5, 6, 10, 11, - 13, 17

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 20 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**Continuation of Box II.2****Claims Nos.: 20**

Present claim 20 relates to an extremely large number of possible apparatus. In fact, the claim contains so many possible permutations that a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claims impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear, namely claims 1-19.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

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Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5688281	A	18-11-1997	US	6193723 B1	27-02-2001
			US	5910143 A	08-06-1999
			WO	9618351 A1	20-06-1996
FR 2796267	A	19-01-2001	FR	2796267 A1	19-01-2001
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			AT	181493 T	15-07-1999
			DE	59309665 D1	29-07-1999
			ES	2134833 T3	16-10-1999
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			US	5720750 A	24-02-1998
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			JP	11155890 A	15-06-1999
			IE	970312 A1	03-12-1997
			JP	10071160 A	17-03-1998
US 6159216	A	12-12-2000	AU	6028199 A	27-03-2000
			WO	0013597 A1	16-03-2000